

INTRODUCTION.

which the *Brahma* ^a exhibits. This will bring us to the same era as that which has previously been computed, or about twelve or thirteen centuries B.C. Mr. Colebrooke, from astronomical data, would give the *SuJstas* a higher antiquity; as he places their aggregation, or *Sanhitd*, fourteen centuries B.C., a date not far from that which is here suggested? All this is, no doubt, to be received with very great reservation ; for, in dealing with Hindu chronology, we have no trustworthy landmarks, no fixed eras, no comparative history, to guide us. In proposing the above dates, therefore, nothing more than conjecture is intended; and it may be wide of the truth. We can scarcely be far wrong, however, in assigning a very remote date to most, if not to all, the *Suktas* of the *Riff- Veda*, and in considering them to be amongst the oldest extant records of the ancient world.

The text which has served for the following translation comprises the *fSuktas* of the *Iliff- Veda* and the commentary of SAYANA *jfcMrya*, printed, by Dr. Miiller, from & collation of manuscripts, of which he has given an account in his Introduction.⁵
SAYANA

Acharya was the brother of MABHAVA
Acliarya, the
prime minister of VIEA BUKKA RA.YA, *Raja* of
YIJAYANA-
GAKA in the fourteenth century, a munificent
patron of
Hindu literature. Both the brothers
are celebrated
as scholars; and many important works
are attributed
to them,—not only scholia on the *Sanhiids*

^a *Asiatic Researches*, Yol. vii., 283, and Yol. viiL,
483.

^ *Rig-Veda*, Preface, p. Til.